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Letters: S. A. Moffett

From: Mrs. Alice Lish Moffett to S.A. Moffett, Pyeng Yang, Korea

Date: March 17, 1909, San Rafael, Calif.

My Dearest:

Your long letter of Feb. 24th makes me more hungry than ever to see you--more hungry for you. When I take up business matters which I have to carry alone and have so many things going on about which I cannot even write you, I feel as if I were growing away from you, dearest. I have some of the old feeling of necessary self-~~dependence~~ dependence and it is not welcome. But I love you and long for you with all my heart, and oh how I wish we could see ahead or find it possible to plan to be together. This training is good for me I know. If I find it hard to endure patiently. Sometimes I am very tired of responsibility and then I grow impatient. I seem to need patience more than anything else these days.

Before I forget it--two matters of business. On Jamie's birthday Mrs. Shaver brought \$5 for the "little Shaver fund", so this amount can be used from the educational fund we carry. Also I have \$40 from the Santa Rosa Society to be used for a Bible woman or in any way most needed. I have acknowledged the receipt of your two checks (\$50 and \$100) but now do so again. Do not send any money till I write for it. I have nearly \$200 in hand.

Mar. 19th. The photo of Merlin and Howard has come and Jamie is delighted. I will have him send a little letter to them. I have received good letters from Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Bernheisel and a note from Mrs. Swallen. How I wish I could be there to help out with the teaching. The good long letter from Louise gave me many details of news.

Jamie boy is so happy in this large yard with Helen and David. He comes in to me with bunches of flowers or to tell me that Muggins is hungry for bread or sugar. Often I hear him singing little snatches of kindergarten songs. "Wee birdies are singing." "Is that a new song, Jamie?" "Yes, and you must sing tra-la-la with it this way. That's the way the birdies do." I am far behind the times because I don't know all the new songs. Jamie says I must buy all the books Miss Mysell has and learn all the songs.

Baby is happy and strong and growing every day on his rich milk and white of egg. He kicks and squeals,--and pounds his rattle all to pieces he is so energetic. The photos are not as good as they might be. I will try again later on. I send you all the proofs just for fun. Have ordered only one dozen from this set, as marked on the back. Do you want any more of these or will you wait for better ones?

I had a short business talk with Mr. Carr the other day. Have placed insurance on the three cottages and given two of the cottages and the vacant lot to an agent for sale. Mr. Carr advises me to go over Father's papers in the City even though I have to do it through

the Company lawyer Mr. Deal who is an old time friend of Father's and Mother's and a man with whom I can talk freely. I intended to do this yesterday but Mother is down sick with an attack of bronchitis--not serious in itself but which brings back the deep ~~son~~ cough of pneumonia which is painful and weakening. It is so hard to see her suffer. She has little resistance and does not respond to remedies as two years ago.

I had a long talk with Dr. Landon, to help me to look on all sides of my problem rightly. He said in substance "I believed that you ought to come and am thankful you did.. Now that your Mother is walking again and you have secured Miss Standen it seems to me that you have accomplished what was most necessary and I doubt if you are called upon to make a decision which will keep you here indefinitely or call Dr. Moffett from the field." I agree with every point he made but still, dearest, when I think of Father's dependence on me for every smallest decision and of Mother's weakened condition I don't see how I can bring myself to leave them again. I know the Lord will guide,--if I am to go home the way will be opened as it was for us to come here--and it may be made plain much sooner than we think. Mother insists that we shall go forward with the plans for moving into the cottage, but unless she gains strength I think we shall have to stay here after Apr. 1st.

This letter has had many interruptions--now I am going back to say little things left out. Am planning to settle up for the Ward cottage Apr. 1st. Mother is willing to draw out interest money from the bank here with the understanding the monthly payments go back in the bank instead of to Mr. Ward. It will be a relief not to have to deal with the--the Wards--any more. Went yesterday to make the proposition to them and learned the place is already insured! 3 yr. policy for \$1000. Father said it was not--they had said nothing about it. Mr. Ward will have this policy changed and pass it over with the deed Apr. 1st. and receive \$630. Mr. and Mrs. Wood who rent the house seem very nice people.

Baby Roy has a new word but he hasn't told me how to spell it. It sounds like diddle or dddlll! with long rolls on the ls. His vaccination did not take--for the second time. I shall wait awhile and try again in a month or two.

Whenever I praise Jamie for prompt obedience or anything praise-worthy he says "Papa you write and tell Papa about it." Very often he says "I want to go back to Pyeng Yang" and even in the middle of the night I heard a half unconscious "I wish we could see Papa."

Yes I still have Florence Solwell's sweater. Will send it by the first opportunity or surely mail it during the Summer. Last week I had my first Mission Study Class in this church with Dr. Underwood's "The Call of Korea" as a test book. 24 in the class. Spoke in the Congregational Church that same evening. Father and Mother send love to you. And I send all my heart of love to you my Dearest.

Your  
Alice

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Sacrificed Wealth, Self

Korea Herald - March 26, 1966

Ito Killing Climax of An's Career

Jung-gun An, a Korean independence fighter, assassinated Hirobumi Ito, the chief architect of Japan's oppression of Korea, in Harbin, Manchuria in 1909 and was executed in Port Arthur on March 26, 1910. The following article deals with An's patriotic efforts in the historical event.—Ed.

By SUK-KI LEE

On a wintry day in October, 1909, legendary Japanese political bigwig, Hirobumi Ito, was assassinated by a Korean independence fighter, Jung-gun An, at Harbin Railway Station in Manchuria.

The stout Korean patriot drove three pistol slugs into the chief architect of Japan's oppression of Korea in 1905, who had just arrived at Harbin for a conference with officials of Czarist Russia.

Japan, fresh from a victory over Russia in 1904 and successful in wrangling Korea into subjugation, was seeking further Japanese domination in Asia.

Ito was coming to the conference with Russian officials to decide the political future of Manchuria, a vast land with massive natural resources.

The Ching dynasty of China, unable to resist the sustained pressure of the Western powers, was finally disintegrating leaving its vast Manchurian territory up for grabs.

Japan, a rising industrial power in Asia, took advantage of the opportunity. She had already signed with the Yi dynasty of Korea a protectorate treaty thereby gaining a foothold on the Asian mainland.

Dissatisfied with the protectorate treaty, voices of discontent among nationalists in Korea began to mount. Some sought exile in Manchuria or Siberia demanding complete nullification of the treaty.

Among the patriotic Koreans was Chung-gun An, son of a wealthy provincial official in Haeju, Hwanghae-do. An, in his mid 20s when the treaty was signed, and a devout Catholic with a clear-cut knowledge of contempo-



Jung-gun An

rary Asian politics, could not endure the atrocity of Japan in subjugating Korea.

The arrogant appearance of the white bearded Ito with Korean Crown Prince Un Yi in newspapers was an object of contempt for An. He was then Japan's governor general in Korea.

An visited a French Catholic priest and had discussions with him on means to help his crumbling country.

The foresighted independence fighter built schools for children in the belief that education on abroad level was what the country needed.

Engulfed with patriotic zeal, he supported the Korean independence fighters in Manchuria financially.

As his increasingly active involvement in the anti-Japanese movements in Korea and abroad began to draw public attention, An fled to Manchuria with his family in tow and there he actively participated in the movements.

An founded an army of Korean volunteers in 1907 in Siberia and became its chief of staff. Though poorly armed, his guerrilla force harassed the Japanese army stationed along the Korean-Manchurian border.

Once in 1908, his army of 300 attacked a Japanese army brigade inflicting heavy casualties. However, sheer courage was not enough before a numerically greater enemy force. His army fell apart and eventually disintegrated.

In the early part of 1909 Kang Yi, managing editor of the Taedong newspaper, a Korean daily published in Manchuria, informed An that Hirobumi Ito, then chairman of Japan's Privy Council and the mastermind of Japan's Asian policy, was coming to Harbin for a Russo-Japanese conference.

An thought that an opportunity had come. He felt that killing Ito in front of the whole world would encourage Koreans in their fight against Japan.

With Dok-sun U, his comrade, he left on a journey for a showdown with the arch enemy of Korea in Harbin. He armed himself with a German-made pistol.

A poem he wrote in Vladivostok on the eve of his departure for Harbin said in part:

The colder the easterly wind, the stronger is my will to get Ito. A man's decision will never become vain... I will surely kill Ito for my country and shout hurrah Korea..."

An and his comrade arrived at Harbin on Oct. 10, 1909 after a 640km (400-mile) journey to wait for Ito who was due there on the 26th of the month.

With the help of To-son Cho, a Korean resident in the Manchurian city, the two checked the layout of the Harbin station and Chaegagu, the station before Harbin.

U later told his intimates that on Oct. 26, 1909 An was to man the Chaegagu station, about three hours from the Harbin Station, and he, U, was to man the Harbin station.

But by a sheer stroke of fate, the original plan was changed on An's request. On the eve of the fateful day, An decided to take the Harbin station instead of the Chaegagu station.

Security measures around the stations were tight. Russian guards kept a round-the-clock vigil in their vicinities. An was executed in Port Arthur March 26, 1910.

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I am looking for Mr. Baird but in June 23 long in July. It seems like a  
 long time since we were together. Mrs. Charlie will be a big fellow when  
 first my first look at him. I hope very much that your mother's condition is improving  
 with medical regards to both parents, and much love to protect  
 always your  
 affectionate  
 friend,  
 Annie D. W. Baird

The story is just out, and in an at-  
 tentionless way. Many thanks for what  
 you did for it. #2

Pyeng Yang, Korea, April 14, 1909.

My dear Mrs. Moffett;—

Spring is coming on very, very slowly. I  
 wonder if it is so the world round. The old willows across the  
 fields are just beginning to show the faintest tint of yellow,  
 and everything else is still brown and dead.

But Mrs. Wells is slowly coming back to life, and it really  
 seems like a resurrection after this long and terrible illness  
 that she has had. I went in to see her the other day, for the first  
 time since she was taken sick, and I could hardly keep from crying  
 just to look at her and hear her voice once more. Since then I  
 have been in several times, for she seems to like to have company.  
 She is looking forward to warm days and getting out of doors  
 every day, and I hope she will gain faster then. She is just like  
 herself, in spite of her weakness, and what do you suppose she is  
 planning for? A party dress! Miss Butts and I just had to laugh  
 when she came out with that.

There is a dear little baby just two weeks' old at the  
 Blair's, little girl No. Three. Naturally, they had hoped for a little  
 boy, this time, but she is a sweet little thing, fat as a pig, and  
 she seemed to bring her welcome with her, as all babies ought to,  
 if it hasn't already preceded them. Mrs. Blair got along well at  
 the time, but I think she has not felt very strong since, at least  
 she has not tried to get up yet.

Miss Butts took down with measles several days ago, very  
 much to her surprise, as she had had them before. The attack it-  
 self seemed light, as she was broken out with them before she knew  
 it, but her eyes have been very weak since.

Has anyone written you about the woman's class? It was  
 the largest one yet, well onto six hundred, and all went off, appar-  
 ently, to every body's satisfaction. At the last meeting, a  
 praise service, there were twenty short speeches in the space of  
 half an hour. I doubt if the brethren could have done as well.

John is doing well at school, altho' the period of "storm  
 and stress" is on him, and he is undergoing attacks of "blues" and  
 kindred unpleasant symptoms. Poor child! He will just have to be  
 patient with himself, and everybody else will have to be patient  
 with him until he "weathers the blast, and anchors at last", in the  
 name of Manhood.